

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 049698
ORIGIN NODS-00

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TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO FLASH
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM FLASH
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INFO WHITE HOUSE

S E C R E T STATE 049698

NODIS
FOR ATHERTON USDEL NO.

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:

SUBJECT: SADAT MESSAGE TO BEGIN

REF: (A) CAIRO 6172, (B) CAIRO 6202, (C) JERUSALEM 524

FOR ATHERTON AND FOR AMBASSADORS FROM THE SECRETARY

1. WE CONCUR FULLY IN ATHERTON'S JUDGMENT IT IS MUCH
PREFERABLE TO DEFER DELIVERY OF SADAT'S MESSAGE TO BEGIN
UNTIL ATHERTON HAS A FURTHER OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS IT
WITH SADAT ON WEDNESDAY. WE AGREE ALSO THAT ATHERTON
SHOULD BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN DELAY TO BEGIN WITHOUT GREAT
DIFFICULTY ALONG THE LINES OF HIS COMMENTS TO DAYAN

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AND HIS SUGGESTED APPROACH, PARA. ONE, REF. C. PROBLEM,
OBVIOUSLY, IS HOW TO HANDLE THIS WITH SADAT.

2- WE HOPE SADAT WILL AGREE TO DEFER ALONG THE BASIS OF

EILTS INITIATIVE, REF. B. IF HE DOES NOT, EILTS SHOULD
GO BACK TO SADAT OR KAMEL, AS HE THINKS BEST, WITH

FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM ME:

I HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO READ THE PROPOSED ORAL MESSAGE AND AGREE WITH ATHERTON. IT WOULD BE BEST TO HAVE CLARIFICATIONS IN ORDER TO ENSURE BEGIN'S FULL UNDERSTANDING AND THAT IN CONVEYING SADAT'S MESSAGE TO BEGIN, HE CAN DO SO EFFECTIVELY FOR FURTHERING THE PEACE PROCESS.

-- I UNDERSTAND AND APPRECIATE THRUST OF SADAT REMARKS AND DESIRE TO GET TO SUBSTANCE OF ISSUES. THAT IS ALSO OUR GOAL, IN ATHERTON MISSION, FOR BEGIN VISIT, AND BEYOND. WE NEED TO MAKE SURE, HOWEVER, THAT WE ARE IN FULLEST POSSIBLE UNDERSTANDING ON THE ISSUES, SADAT'S OBJECTIVES AND HOW TO PROCEED.

-- SADAT'S EXPRESSION OF VIEWS RAISES SEVERAL POINTS OF IMPORTANCE WHICH I WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO HAVE ATHERTON EXPLORE WITH HIM BEFORE PRESENTATION TO BEGIN AND ATHERTON WILL BE PREPARED ON HIS NEXT VISIT TO CAIRO TO DO SO.

3. IF NECESSARY AND EILTS THINKS ADVISABLE, HE MAY ADD THAT I HAVE ASKED ATHERTON TO DEFER CONVEYING MESSAGE TO BEGIN UNTIL I HAVE HAD THE CHANCE TO PASS THIS MESSAGE TO SADAT AND GET HIS RESPONSE. ATHERTON
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SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT, IN ANY EVENT, CONVEY MESSAGE WITHOUT MY FURTHER AUTHORIZATION.

4. WE WILL HAVE FURTHER COMMENTS AND GUIDANCE ON THE POINTS RAISED BY ATHERTON, REF. C, ABOUT THE SADAT MESSAGE. OF THESE, OBVIOUSLY, THE QUESTION OF DURATION OF SINAI II IS THE MOST SERIOUS. IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY HARMFUL TO RAISE ANY REPEAT ANY QUESTION IN ISRAELI MINDS, AT THIS TIME, ABOUT COMMITMENTS UNDER SINAI II, EITHER ABOUT EGYPT'S COMMITMENTS OR, EVEN MORE, U.S. COMMITMENTS. I THINK WE HAVE TO SETTLE THIS ISSUE NOW AND FEEL THAT THIS IS PROBABLY MOST PROPITIOUS TIME, IN TERMS OF OUR PRESENT RELATIONS OF CONFIDENCE AND MUTUAL INTERESTX WITH SADAT. WE WILL ADDRESS THIS AND OTHER ISSUES IN MORE DETAIL IN FURTHER GUIDANCE FOR ATHERTON. WOULD APPRECIATE SOONEST, FOR THAT PURPOSE, ANY FURTHER VIEWS OF EILTS AND ATHERTON ON HOW BEST TO HANDLE THE SINAI II PROBLEM WITH SADAT.
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